

Isen Blasts Proposed Commission Changes

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Torrance

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URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY SET

New Ordinance Adopted

Pigeons Stay Provided Owners Secure Permits

If you have more than four pigeons or doves in your backyard this afternoon — and haven't visited the city manager's office today — you're in violation of a new city statute.

Doing business in a crowded council chamber last night, the City Council adopted a new ordinance which requires a permit from the city manager to maintain more than four pigeons or doves in Torrance.

In adopting the ordinance, councilmen declared an "emergency" and put the new law into effect immediately. The regular and permanent ordinance will become effective in about six weeks.

THE ORDINANCE was the result of a meeting between city staff members, representatives of area pigeon clubs, and residents who object to the keeping of pigeons and doves in the city.

Briefly, it requires any person who has more than four birds to obtain a permit from the city manager. The permit will be granted on payment of a \$10 fee and after a health inspection. It may be revoked if the pigeons become a health or safety hazard or a neighborhood nuisance.

Passage of the ordinance followed some rather heated debate. At one point, Mrs. Helen Leithoid, a member of

the original committee, read a letter from her neighbors in the Riviera section of Torrance which asked that the ordinance "prohibit any pigeons in Torrance."

WHEN ONE woman asked Mayor Albert Isen if there were any chance of the people voting on the issue, Isen replied:

"I doubt it very much. If this council isn't competent to solve this big problem, I think we all ought to quit!"

"Don't say that too loud," Kenneth Miller told the mayor, as councilmen adopted the ordinance on a 6-1 vote. George Vico dissented — but didn't say why.



JOBS FOR CHRISTMAS . . . More than 1,000 students turned in applications for jobs during the Christmas holiday season last week when the State Employment Service held its annual sign up session. Mrs. Rita Baglio, youth services supervisor, said many employers add students to their staffs during the peak holiday business period. (Press-Herald Photo)

Moratorium On Airport Area Stays

An ordinance establishing a redevelopment agency composed of City Councilmen was adopted on its first reading last night as plans for an urban renewal project in South Torrance moved forward one more step.

The agency will serve as the chief planning body if the city actually proceeds with the urban renewal program.

A second step toward the first major redevelopment program in the city was taken when the council voted to continue rezoning hearings on the property involved to Jan. 26, 1965. A building moratorium which has been in effect for about six months also was extended until Jan. 26, 1965.

THE PROPERTY in question is located at the west end of the Torrance Municipal Airport. It is generally bounded by Pacific Coast Highway, Hawthorne Avenue, and Lomita Boulevard.

A complete investigation of the possibilities of the urban renewal program will be made during the three-month period.

Councilmen gave a cautious go-ahead to the program last week. While no plans have been made at this stage, some councilmen and city employees have suggested the possible development of an industrial park in the area. It would be developed under a lease system similar to that now employed by the city at the airport.

In a non-related matter, councilmen voted to hold a request for authorization to file an application under a federal "open space" program. They will discuss the matter, which might permit the city to acquire park sites with a 20 per cent federal subvention, next week.

IN OTHER matters, the council:

- Approved a variance for off-street parking for Pacific

Telephone Co.'s Torrance Boulevard and Cravens Avenue facilities.

• Adopted an ordinance which will require all pool rooms and billiard parlors in the city to close between 2 and 6 a.m. The effect of the ordinance will be to close billiard rooms now operated in bowling alleys during those hours.

Ferraro Gets New Assignment

Having disposed, for the time being at least, of what has become known as "The Pigeon Problem," City Manager Edward J. Ferraro now has a new assignment.

Ferraro has been asked to investigate a noise problem that may become worse at Christmas. Mrs. Betty M. Pickard appeared before the City Council to ask that it do something about a "senseless noise."

The noise is made by a new toy which "looks and sounds like a real hot rod engine" and attaches to bicycles, tricycles, or children. It is a steady whine which Mrs. Pickard says reached 102 decibels during a noise level test at the California State College at Long Beach physics lab.

Mrs. Pickard also noted that a sound level of 120 decibels becomes painful to the ear, and anything above 80 decibels is labeled as "irritating."

Ferraro will report to the council as soon as possible.

Students Search for Sales Work

More than 1,000 high school and college students completed applications for Christmas holiday jobs during the annual "Hol-i-day" hiring program at the State Employment Service Saturday morning.

The office, normally closed on Saturdays, was opened from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to give area employers and high school and college students an opportunity to get together.

STUDENTS, referred to the employment offices by their schools, are enrolled in sales and merchandising classes for training before they begin work during the peak business period prior to Christmas.

Employers were given an opportunity to interview students or send in their orders for needed help. Many of the students will be released from school during the week before the Christmas vacation in order to help area employers meet their needs. Other students will work on weekends or after school hours.

Mrs. Rita Baglio, youth services supervisor for the department, said 16 high schools and two junior colleges participated in the holiday hiring session. All Torrance schools, as well as those in surrounding communities, were represented.

Employers who were unable to attend the morning session may call FA 8-2611 for referral of applicants who have developed merchandising skills and need vacation work.

Ballot Choices Reported Today

The Press-Herald today announces its choices in the presidential campaign, the senatorial race, and for district attorney.

The recommendations, made after thoughtful study of the candidates and the programs they offer, are published on today's Press-Herald editorial page, on Page 9 of Section B.

New Civil Service Proposal Draws Ire

Mayor Albert Isen branded a proposed new ordinance which would change the size of the city's Civil Service Commission and the method of appointing commissioners as the "worst and most completely political proposal I've ever heard in this chamber" last night.

Despite the mayor's protest, however, councilmen referred the ordinance to the Civil Service Commission for public hearings and a recommendation. The commission must, under city laws, act on the proposal before councilmen can consider it.

The new ordinance, if adopted, would increase to seven the number of commissioners and permit each councilman to appoint one member—with concurrence of a majority of the council. Terms of the commissioners would be concurrent with the term of the appointing councilman and 60 days thereafter.

UNDER THE present ordinance, five commissioners are appointed by the mayor with concurrence of the council and serve for four years.

Isen charged the new system would tie the appointees to the individual councilmen, rather than permit the commission to operate independently. He defended his own record, saying he had never refused to nominate any person who received four votes from the council.

The mayor's colleagues disagreed to the point that one



FIRST AWARD . . . Receiving an Angel Award for heading up the first section to exceed its goal in the residential United Crusade campaign in Mrs. Floyd Carpenter, chairman in the Harbor City-Lomita drive. Others receiving awards were Mrs. Pat Shelley, a section chairman, and Mrs. Athena Morgan, a division chairman.



INSPECT DEPOT . . . Mayor Albert Isen, Congressman Cecil R. King, Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, and city recreation director Harry Van Belehem look through the fence surrounding the Torrance Naval Supply Depot Annex on a brief inspection tour. City and school officials met with King Monday to discuss problems related to possible release of the site by the Navy. (Press-Herald Photo)

Congressman Pledges Aid In Drive for Navy Land

Congressman Cecil R. King (D-17th District) met with civic and school district officials Monday to discuss plans for the acquisition of a 63-acre site by the city and school district.

The site is the Torrance Annex of the Long Beach Naval Supply Depot. Both the city and the school district hope to acquire parts of the land if the Navy declares the site surplus.

City officials envision a 40- or 50-acre regional park on a portion of the site, while the school district hopes to expand the area around Torrance Elementary School. The school district did acquire 26 acres of the Navy land — site of the Torrance High stadium and Torrance Elementary School — about three years ago.

King told the two groups the Navy is now completing

a study of the need for the site and hopes to make a final decision within the near future. The Congressman

Unemployed Data Filing Date Nov. 2

Deadline for filing California unemployment insurance wage reports and contribution returns for the third quarter of 1964 is Nov. 2, according to W. P. Nebergall, auditor in charge for the State Department of Employment in Long Beach.

Penalty and interest will be charged if the report is filed after that date. Employers needing assistance in preparing returns may contact the Audit Office, 1315 Pine Ave., Long Beach.

pledged any help he could give in aiding both the city and school district.

Under existing federal law, the school district can acquire the site without cost for educational purposes. The city would be required to pay market value for the land — about \$50,000 per acre.

Following the brief meeting at City Hall, the party "inspected" the Naval Annex — by looking through the fence — then adjourned for a luncheon at the Palms Restaurant.

King told the group that one major difficulty has been the problem of persuading the Navy to declare the land surplus. By the time you persuade one commander, King said, "he is transferred to the Aleutian Islands and you have to start all over with a new commander who will be transferred, too."

Rain Leaves Streets Wet . . .

Officials at Torrance Municipal Airport reported .08 inches of rain fell on the city last night during the first real rain storm of the season. The water — something area drivers forget about during the long, dry summers — was responsible for numerous minor accidents, Torrance police officers reported.

Sister City Meeting Set . . .

Members of the Sister City Committee will meet Thursday afternoon at 4:30. Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. has announced. The meeting will be held in Room 209 at City Hall. The committee is now considering a second sister city for Torrance.

Council to Be Day Late . . .

City Councilmen will not meet next Tuesday because of election day. Instead, the council will convene at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday for its regular weekly session. State law prohibits the municipal body from meeting on election days.

To Attend Conference . . .

Raymond L. Silagy, Torrance Police Department juvenile officer, will attend the Juvenile Law Enforcement Officers Training Conference in Pacific Grove, Calif. The annual conference, sponsored by the California State Department of Justice and the University of Southern California, will be held Jan. 10 through 16, 1965.